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8 Substances Cause Cancer, Chemist Says

Found In 'Tar' From Cigarets, Trial Here Told

By WERNER SIEMS

A New Jersey chemist testified in Federal Court today he has isolated eight chemical compounds in cigaret smoke tars which are identified by the Government as "carcinogens."

These are agents which have been found to cause cancer in animals when given in various amounts, said Dr. David N. Kendall of Plainfield, N. J.

He admitted, however, he had conducted no cancer tests on animals himself.

Dr. Kendall, a consulting chemist who appeared briefly on the witness stand yesterday, resumed his testimony this morning in the suit against the Liggett & Myers Tobacco Co. by Otto Pritchard, 61-year-old cancer victim from Brookline.

Jurors At Loss

His testimony took on the appearance of a long lecture on chemical analysis, which seemed to sometimes bewilder the jury of seven women and five men.

Even Mr. Pritchard's attorney, James A. McArdle, called the complicated description "intelligent but somewhat unintelligible."

Mr. McArdle sought to bring a research machine used by Dr. Kendall into the courtroom for a demonstration, but Judge John L. Miller refused permission.

The witness explained how he collected and analyzed cigaret smoke tars while serving as a consultant to P. Lorillard Co.

He said the eight chemical compounds referred to as "carcinogens" were identified as such in publications of the U. S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

He admitted that the animal tests didn't take into account whether the amount of "carcinogens" absorbed by a human smoker in puffs of cigaret smoke would be enough to cause cancer.

No One Cause

Yesterday, a Buffalo, N. Y., cancer researcher agreed there is no single causative factor for cancer of the lung.

Dr. Morton L. Levin, a witness for the plaintiff, acknowledged on cross-examination that the causes of cancer are "exceedingly complex and obscure."

Dr. Levin was the fifth medical expert called in the $1,250,000 damage suit against Liggett & Myers.

Mr. Pritchard, a carpenter, claims he contracted lung cancer from smoking the firm's Chesterfield brand for many years.

One of his lungs was removed because of cancer in 1953.

Dr. Levin, on questioning by Defense Counsel Frederick Haas, said the cause or causes of lung cancer had to be discussed in terms of probability, rather than certainty.

He stated earlier yesterday that in his opinion "the fact that Mr. Pritchard smoked cigarets and smoked heavily was a major causative factor in his developing this particular type of lung cancer."

Mr. Haas pointed out that Dr. Levin was asked at a congressional hearing last week whether he had come to a conclusion "with any medical certainty" regarding a link between smoking and lung cancer.

"I told them I was convinced there is a real risk from smoking," Dr. Levin testified.

"You said 'It took me two years to give it up myself,' " Mr. Haas reminded him.

"It certainly did," Dr. Levin replied. "It was a tough thing to do."

Dr. Levin is professor and head of the department of epidemiology at the Roswell Park Memorial Institute, a New York State center devoted to cancer treatment and research.

Studies Cancer Rates

Dr. Levin said he could link cigaret smoking to lung cancer with "reasonable medical certainty" but not with "absolute certainty."

He agreed with Mr. Haas that a causative factor (such as smoking) "may or may not be operative in a given instance."

Mr. Haas noted that in Dr. Levin's studies of cancer rates among men of "lower socio-economic status" smoking habits do not entirely explain the higher incidence, compared with the general population.

"On the basis of your studies can you predict what will happen to a given individual?" asked Mr. Haas.

"It is practically impossible to predict what will happen to an individual unless you put a gun to his head," Dr. Levin answered.

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Double Talk Sparks Cigaret-Cancer Trial

New Jersey Doctor Brought Up Short In Testimony by Tobacco Firm Counsel

By ALBERT W. BLOOM
Post-Gazette Staff Writer

A chemical physicist testified in Federal Court yesterday that he found "many" carcinogenic (cancer-causing) chemicals among 114 compounds that he isolated from cigaret smoke.

But Dr. David N. Kendall, of the Kendall Infra-Red Laboratories, Plainfield, N. J., was forced to admit that these chemicals were never tested to prove cancer-causing ability in humans.

Poison Gases Cited

"Anybody would be foolish to do that," he said.

Dr. Kendall was brought up short by Defense Attorney Frederick P. Haas, counsel for Liggett & Myers Tobacco Company, defendants in a $1,250,000 lung cancer suit here.

The bespectacled scientist also testified that cigaret smoke contained "poison gases not visible to the human eye."

Earlier at recess, he replied to reporters' questions with: "Yes, I smoke occasionally. About eight to ten a day, the filtered kind." He declined to name them.

Dr. Kendall was under the direct questioning of Attorney James E. McLaughlin, associate of Attorney James P. McArdle in the case brought by Otto E. Pritchard, 61-year-old Brookline carpenter. Mr. McLaughlin is known to have done intensive research on cigarets and lung cancer to prepare the Pritchard case.

Likened To Man in Moon

But Mr. Haas evidently holds Dr. Kendall in disdain as a witness on lung cancer and cigaret and cigaret smoking. At the end of the fifth day of trial yesterday, Mr. Haas cracked across the counsel table:

"This guy is no more qualified than the man in the moon."

"Yeah," Mr. McArdle cracked back, "we're going to call him tomorrow."

However, Dr. Kendall, 43, (a recognized expert in his field) and not the "man in the moon" is due to take the stand again at 10 a. m. today in Judge John L. Miller's sixth floor courtroom in the Federal Building.

Earlier, Dr. Morton L. Levin, 54, of the Roswell Park Memorial Institute, a New York state research and hospital institution near Buffalo, linked cigarets and cancer.

He said it was "highly suggestive, but not conclusive" that heavy cigaret smoking brings on lung cancer.

He conceded that in the 1950's he wrote that the "true cause of lung cancer has yet to be determined."

Dr. Levin also tied the kind of lung cancer Mr. Pritchard had (epidermoid carcinoma, squamous cell type—the kind that arises in the plate-like cells of the lung lining) to smoking. Mr. Pritchard blames his cancer on Chesterfields.

"It is a remarkable fact," said Dr. Levin, "that this type of cancer, except in rare exceptions, is almost always found in cases of heavy cigaret smoking. . ."

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